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In re Application of:

ALAJEM, SARA ET AL

Serial No.: 09/727,480

Filed: 12 April, 2000

**For: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND
ASSEMBLIES THEREOF USEFUL IN THE
DETECTION OF THE PRESENCE OR
ABSENCE OF TARGET NUCLEIC ACID
SEQUENCES IN A SAMPLE**

Examiner: Jeffrey Norman Fredman

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit: 1655

Attorney
Docket: 00/21400

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Action mailed February 18, 2002, which response is being made on or before June 18, 2002, for which a two-months extension fee is due and is being submitted herewith. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-86, without prejudice and add new claims 87-92 as follows:

87. (New) A method of detecting a presence or an absence of a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide system under hybridization conditions so as to form a reaction mixture, said

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